

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 SY-05 A-01

AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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R 230710Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3593

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMR PINT AO

SUBJECT: SOME AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN ANGOLA BEGIN EVACUATION
OF DEPENDENTS

PRETORIA FOR RSO

1. FACED WITH A RAPIDLY DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN
RURAL AREAS AND INCREASINGLY HOSTILE CONFRONTATIONS WITH
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND BLACK ANGOLANS, SEVERAL AMERICAN
MISSIONARIES IN THE NOVA LISBOA AREA HAVE DECIDED TO SEND OUT
THEIR DEPENDENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MANY OF THESE MISSIONARIES
THEMSELVES ARE ALSO CONSIDERING LEAVING SOON THEREAFTER AND
SHUTTING DOWN THE MISSION AND HOSPITALS THEY RUN.

2. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE LONGONJO MISSION, LOCATED 50
MILES WEST OF NOVA LISBOA, VISITED US MAY 22. OF THE 19
AMERICAN CITIZENS AT HIS MISSION, NINE WILL LEAVE WITHIN A
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WEEK, AND ALL BUT FIVE WILL BE OUT BY JULY. WHILE HE

DIDN'T HAVE EXACT FIGURES ON THE OTHER 30-ODD U.S. MISSIONARIES (INCLUDING DEPENDENTS) IN THE AREA, HE SAID MOST WERE CONTEMPLATING DEPARTURE. HE RECOUNTED STORIES OF INCREASINGLY HOSTILITY DIRECTED AT THE MISSION AND THE WHITE MISSIONARIES BY FNLA AND MPLA. HE DIDN'T FEEL THEY WERE SINGLED OUT AS AMERICANS BUT RATHER AS EXPLOITERS OR RACISTS. HE HAS LIVED IN THIS MISSION HIS ENTIRE LIFE AND AS RECENTLY AS SIX WEEKS AGO TOLD US HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY TROUBLE. HOWEVER THE INCREASING RURAL PRESENCE OF ARMED ELEMENTS OF MPLA AND FNLA BROUGHT WITH IT THE TENSIONS THAT EXISTED IN THE CITIES AND POLARIZED THE PEOPLE. HIS PARISH IS NOW DIVIDED INTO ANTAGONISTIC GROUPS SUPPORTING DIFFERENT MOVEMENTS.

3. WE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM A VERY ELDERLY U.S. MISSIONARY WHO HAS LIVED SINCE 1918 IN THE CAZOMBO SALIENT, AT NANA CANDUNDO. HE NOW FEELS THREATENED BY THE MPLA PRESENCE IN THE AREA AND IS IN A QUANDRY WHETHER TO LEAVE OR TO WAIT IT OUT. HIS WIFE HAS A HEART CONDITION AND WOULD HAVE TROUBLE SURVIVING A LONG JOURNEY BUT HE FEELS ISOLATED AND IN JEOPARDY.

4. GROUPS OF CANADIAN AND BRITISH MISSIONARIES IN THE EXTREME SOUTH ARE EXPERIENCING SIMILAR PROBLEMS AND ARE CONTEMPLATING EVACUATION. ONE MISSION IN SERPA PINTO HAS ALREADY BEEN CLOSED.

5. THIS WIDESPREAD INSECURITY ON THE PART OF VETERAN MISSIONARIES WHO ALL FELT, UNTIL RECENTLY, THAT THEY HAD BUILT UP SUFFICIENT GOOD WILL AMONG THE BLACKS TO INSURE THEIR WELL-BEING, IS A GRIM INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION ANGOLA IS HEADING. THE MISSIONARIES KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE CONGO IN THE 1960'S AND THEY NOW SEE THE SAME BREAKDOWN BECOMING EVIDENT HERE.

6. WE TOLD THEM WE CONCURRED IN THEIR DECISION TO SEND OUT DEPENDENTS AND WOULD ASSIST IN ANY WAY WE COULD TO ARRANGE VISAS AND HELP THEM UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA (THEY WILL TRAVEL BY ROAD). THEY ARE A WELL ORGANIZED GROUP AND THEIR CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVES IN THE REPUBLIC ARE PREAPRED TO HELP THEM MOVE ON TO THE U.S. OR TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SETTLE INTO OTHER MISSION JOBS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
PORTER

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